

Proceedings of the 2000 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

Corrections

DCA, p 1782, column 1, paragraph 1:
DALE SEGREST (Alabama-West
Florida) should be ROLAND
SIEGRIST (Austrian Provisional)

Continued from p. 2010)

WILSON: Our next calendar item is on the very same page, 1848, in your *DCA*. It is Item 167, Petition 30409; in your *Advance DCA*, on page 979. This is on "Incapacity leave resulting from health matters and disability conditions," and our committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions from the body? All right, if you will support the recommendation from the committee, press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 878; No, 34.*] By a vote of 96.3%, you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: Our next petition is on 1848, it is Item 168, Petition 30916; in your *Advance DCA*, 978. This is on the subject of "Before a leave is granted, clergy shall be appointed for at least one quadrennium," and the committee voted and recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency press 1. If you do not so support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 799; No, 113*] Eighty-seven-point-six percent is your recommendation for support for nonconcurrency.

WILSON: Our next item is 169, at the bottom of 1848, and the rest of that is on the top of 1849. Petition 30741, *Advance DCA* 957. The committee recommends concurrence with amendment as follows: "especially members of the Churches of Christ Uniting." The committee voted in concurrence with amendment.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee for concurrence please press 1. If you do not so support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 851; No, 57*] By a vote of 93.7% you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: Our next item is 170, found on p. 1849. Petition number is 30638 *Advance*

DCA 958, and this particular one is on adding "all covenant relationships" regarding examinations for deacons. The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Are there questions? If you'll support the recommendation from the committee please press 1; if you do not support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 772; No, 141*] By a vote of 84.6% you have voted to support the recommendation from the committee.

WILSON: On the very same page the next calendar item is 171. The petition number is 30640. The *Advance DCA* page is 962. This is regarding "all covenant relationships regarding examinations of elders." The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee press 1; if you do not support press 2. Please vote when the light appears. By a vote of 84.8% [*Yes, 764; No, 137*] you have voted to support the recommendation of the committee.

WILSON: On the very same page the Calendar Item 172. Petition number is 30050. Your *Advance DCA* page is 968. The subject was deleting words in *effective relationship*. The committee recommended non-concurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions to the chair? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 862; No, 48*] A vote of 94.7%. You have voted to support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency.

WILSON: Bishop, that concludes our items from yesterday's *DCA*. Thank you very much.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thanks, Miss Wilson, and thanks to the other officers of your committee. Thank you.

(Applause)

*Legislative Committee
on Global Ministries Reports*

BISHOP HENDERSON: The next legislative committee is Global Ministries; Miss Christine Dean Keels is the chair.

CHRISTINE DEAN KEELS (Baltimore-Washington): Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Good morning.

KEELS: The Committee on Global Ministries will be presenting from page 1848. My vice-chair is Reverend Youngsook Kang, from the Rocky Mountain Conference; my secretary is Jerry Russell, from the Holston Conference. In the spirit of shared leadership, in future days you will hear from the vice-chair and the secretary. This morning, I'd like to call on Paul Ervin, who chaired the Subcommittee on Community and Ecumenical Relations, and Phyllis Ferguson, who chaired Peace and Justice Committee, to walk us through the petitions.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you.

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia): Calendar Item 160, page 1848. This is a petition—on page 914, was Petition number 31381; 31381. If you'll turn to that page, there was a related petition which will come up later on which concurrence is recommended, this particular petition we're on—and that, incidentally, is Petition 31731 on page 916. This petition, though, that we're currently looking at relates to the support of the International Day of Prayer, and it—it was voted nonconcurrency. Nonconcurrency. Now, this is Petition 31381. The reason, the main reason was, as we understood it—it was a close vote—but the main reason it was voted nonconcurrency related to the specifics mentioned in that resolution relating to countries. But we moved nonconcurrency.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Are there questions to Mr. Ervin? Yes. I do not see a card. I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1; if you do not support, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 778; No, 139.*] By a vote of 84.8%, you voted to support the recommendation from the committee for nonconcurrency. Yes? You may proceed.

PHYLLIS S. FERGUSON (Pacific-Northwest): The next petition is petition on page 1848, Calendar Item 164, in the *Advance* [*sic*, Volume 4] *DCA*, it's on page 1848. The petition number is 31715 [*sic*, 31751]. The petition concerns supporting the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. The committee voted concurrence because of what these sanctions do to very poor women and children.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, are there questions from the body? I do not see a card. If you'll support the recommendation from the committee, please press 1; if you do not support their recommendation, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 703; No, 213.*] By a vote of 76.7%, you voted to support the recommendation from the committee, for concurrence. Yes.

KEELS: Bishop, this concludes our report for this morning.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. Let's express our appreciation to this committee.

(Applause)

You've done a great deal this morning, and we are in debt grateful to you, not only for what you've done, but for the wonderful spirit under which you've done it. We have some announcements at this time, and we'll get ready for those, and we have some special words that you need to hear in just a moment. First of all, there is an urgent resolution that comes from the Philippines about the peace and order situation. Where is Joe Samson, where are you? Back, would you go to mike five, please? From the Kansas delegation. Bishop Arichea, where are you? Would you come down for just a moment, please sir, as this is being presented? Yes, would you come down, please sir? All right, you may proceed at mike number five.

*Resolution on Peace and Conflict
in the Philippines*

ANGELITO G. SAMSON (Kansas East): I move to suspend the rules for the purpose of presenting this resolution on the peace and conflict situation in the Philippines.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. That's a motion to suspend the rules. If you will so support, press 1; if you do not wish for the rules to be suspended, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. This requires a two-thirds vote. [*Yes, 859; No, 41*] A vote of 95.4%, the rules are suspended. You may proceed.

SAMSON: Resolution on the peace and conflict situation in the Philippines. We rejoice with the reported rescue of the fifteen hostages previously held by extremists Muslim rebels of the Abu Sayyaf group. But with them were four dead, a priest and three teachers. We share the agony of those 21 hostages from Sipadan Island in Malaysia, among them, French, German, Lebanese, South African, Finnish, and Malaysian nationals who face continuing uncertainties. We lament the outbreak of violence involving Muslim rebels in the 14 localities of Mindanao, including those in

Sulu and Basilan islands. And so, we are grimly reminded of what we stand for as members of The United Methodist Church.

Whereas "individuals are affirmed by God in their diversity, so are nations and cultures"; and "while recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every" situation [1996 *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 69, section A]. Whereas, "we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. . . and insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them; that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities" [1996 *Book of Discipline*, par. 69C].

Be it hereby resolved, that the General Conference 2000 of The United Methodist Church express its prayer that hostilities begin to cease, for there are only losers in wars, and those who claim to be victors must live with the threat of violent reprisals in an unending cycle of vengeance; that food, medicines, clothing, and safe refuge be ensured by all parties to those whose life are in their hands, and that humanitarian agencies be allowed to care for them until the ultimate return of peace in their disturbed lands; that we join all with this our resolution of the conflicts and sorrows—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Sir, you'll need to sum—sum up your recommendation, please. Please sum it up.

SAMSON: —that we call upon all peoples to recognize one another, to be in community with each other, in the hope of a just world order, upholding how all persons and groups must feel secure in their life and right to live within a society if order is to be achieved and maintained by law, and if we especially express this hope to both Christians and non-Christians alike, we must leave the rigors of the sovereign Philippine community. Thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right, thank you. If you wish by the body to respond with the vote to affirm your recommendation, press 1; if you do not support this request, press 2. Please vote when the light appears. [*Yes, 848; No, 53.*] By vote of 94.1%, you have voted to support the recommendation. Thank you.

*Dangerous Situation
in Sierra Leone Reported*

BISHOP HENDERSON: The next item is a similar item. Where is the delegate who brought me the news paper clipping? Where is Bishop Humper? Bishop Humper, where are you, sir—from Sierra Leone? Would you please come down in like wise fashion

as did Bishop Arichea? This is about our situation that is very explosive in Sierra Leone. Where's the delegate who brought me this newspaper clipping? Where are you? Right here. Would you go to mike one and say just a brief word to us? Then we'll turn to the secretary for announcements.

DIANE NUNNELEE (Missouri West Conference): I just request that we ask Bishop Humper to bring us a report on our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone—as the peace process seems to be falling apart—and then for us to be led in prayer for this desperate situation of the loss of peace.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you. Bishop Ray Chamberlain is going to lead us in prayer at the benediction in just a few minutes, so he can be in clusive in that request to Almighty God. Thank you very much. Bishop Humper, you want to say a word to us. Please, sir.

BISHOP HUMPER: Thank you, Bishop. Delegates of this great United Methodist Church, without wasting much of your time, I would only want to share with you where we are at this point in trying the peace process in Sierra Leone.

On July 7, 1999, after nine years of brutal war in Sierra Leone, the international community together with the Intelligence Council of Sierra Leone managed to have a peace agreement signed in Lomé, Togo, between the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front led by Corporal Foday Sankoh. As a result of that document the United Nations put together the process whereby sustainable peace could be achieved in Sierra Leone. The ultimate result was to send in 11,100 United Nations peacekeeping forces in Sierra Leone, and with this withdrawal of ECOMOG that's helping the government of Sierra Leone to prosecute the war.

Though the Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) process was going on very slowly, what our people in Sierra Leone were hopeful that in the horizon there are signs of hope for sustainable peace. Suddenly, after the final withdrawal of ECOMOG on April 29, this past Monday the rebel leader Corporal Foday Sankoh ordered his boys, the rebel boys, to arrest or detain some of the United Nations peacekeeping force. Up to this point of speaking, on Tuesday, four peacekeeping forces, coming probably from Kenya, were killed and three wounded with the detention of the helicopter and its crew.

Yesterday we learned that four of those crew members, together with the helicopter, were released. But a Gambian-Zambian contingent of 208 was heading for Makeni where you have the greater force shown of

rebel forces for deployment at the United Nations peacekeeping force. The 208, together with their armored cars and ammunition, were seized. At this point in time, according to information we have received, over 300 United Nations forces are in the hands of the rebels. And, it is not known what the state of those people is at this moment. We have learned that the international community—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Excuse me, excuse me, Bishop Humper.

BISHOP HUMPER: —have sent in members there—

BISHOP HENDERSON: Excuse me, Bishop. How does a bishop tell another bishop that the time is up? I don't know.

(Laughter)

But, I respectfully remind you, sir, that the time has expired. If you could wrap up your statement to us, please, sir, we would be grateful. I'm so sorry. Just, just a concluding statement or two, the body will surely accept.

BISHOP HUMPER: In conclusion, *(Laughter, Applause)* the peace process is fragile in Sierra Leone. I would hope and pray that the international community will do more to help one man—who is holding the whole nation ransom—to see reason and to bring peace in that land is my submission, Mr. Chairman. I thank you.

BISHOP HENDERSON: We thank you.

(Applause)

We thank you, sir. We thank you very much, and Bishop Chamberlain will surely remember that in just a few moments. Yes, Mike number 6, please. Mike number 6. Yes? Yes, sir.

EDWARD KAIL: (Iowa Conference) Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Mr. Kail.

KAIL: Before we adjourn, could you remind us of the process for lifting items from the Consent Calendar?

BISHOP HENDERSON: All right. The legislative committee bringing that report would make those in the form of recommendations to the body. The presiding officer will present that recommendation, and the body will so respond—to lift items from the consent calendar. Are there other questions from the body? I'll, I'll turn to my big brothers in the episcopacy and see if I've stated that correctly. That is correct according to Bishop Thomas and Bishop Looney. All right, our secretary, Mrs. Marshall.

Carolyn Marshall Turns Up the Heat

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Several announcements, Bishop, first one being, anyone interested in attending the Africa University Choir concert at the United Methodist Church of Berea is requested to see Dawn Barbara Swartz between 1:30 and 2:00 this afternoon at the information booth. There will be an attempt to try to workout car-pooling possibilities. Wanting to let you know since several of you have been very willing to share the fact that some of you are very warm, and some of you are very cold.

(Laughter)

And if you've ever tried making comfort-control exactly perfect for this number of people, you know the possibility is—of having it perfect is probably not there. However, this is to advise you that the blowers have been turned down. At this particular point—

(Applause)

while you are rejoicing at that, let me tell you that there are—there is absolutely no air moving on the stage,

(Laughter)

and there is no air-conditioning up here at all. The bishops behind this particular table will be even more uncomfortable, and we are sitting under heavy lights with absolutely no air. So at least remember that if you feel a bit more comfortable.

(Laughter)

BISHOP HENDERSON: I don't think you ought to tell them that; they may want to turn the lights up.

(Laughter)

MARSHALL: An other point: All subcommittees of Financial Administration, the Financial Administration legislative committee will meet in the committee room one and a half hours after adjournment of this plenary—all subcommittees of financial interpretation.

Recognizing Prayer Concerns

Then, just a word to simply share and offer the services of the secretarial staff. Across the last several days, and I can see it coming even more as we go into this last week—yes, we have a week to go—persons have come expressing their concern, and rightly so, about persons in their delegation who have had to go home, who are not

here because of an emergency, either of their own—physical—something to do with somebody in their family who has passed away—you can imagine the multitude of concerns in a body of this size—and asking that we as a body of concerned Christians meeting in this General Conference would share our love and concern with them. I've got several pieces of paper with names and so forth on them and the specifics. If you would like to have that done for whom ever is in your delegation who would be so affected, and you would get the name to me on a piece of paper—please don't stop me in the hall—I'll be glad to take the piece of paper there, but mention a name in the hall and say you will remember that—that's a little hard to do. If you'll put it on a piece of paper and hand it to me, if the address is the same as is in the handbook for delegates, we can look that up very simply. If it's different, let us know. But we will be glad to respond to those concerns from all of us gathered here as a General Conference. Bishop, that completes the announcements.

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Madame Secretary. Where is Micheline Baussam from Haiti? Would you stand, please? You were not recognized the other night, Tuesday—the other day when our special guests and delegates were recognized, vice-president of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas Concordat Church from Haiti. You are more than welcome. We are glad you are here to join us. Would you greet greet her so.

(Applause)

Thank you, delegates, for that wonderful applause for a sister of ours. Let me express to Bishop James S. Thomas and Bishop Richard Looney my appreciation for serving as backups for the presiding chair this morning.

This has been a very, very special honor for me. Just the site on which we gather is extremely special. Cleveland, Ohio, is my second home. My family, many members of my family, moved here during the forties—the mid-forties and early fifties—and three out of five boys of the Henderson clan settled here in Cleveland. Many of these are now gone on to the Church Triumphant, and I have bitter and sweet memories of this city as we gather here. I expressed to a member of the Committee on Presiding Officers, "Please don't do that to me. Don't submit my name"; and it was done any way. I will deal with that preacher later.

(Laughter)

But it has been a signal honor, and I want to thank you, members of the General Conference delegation, for being so special and so dear. There is nothing on this earth that we can not accomplish as The United Methodist Church if we ever set our minds in the right direction; and we're doing that. And let me express to you my appreciation. Bishop Thomas has been a bishop for 36 years. I was there when he was elected on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College in 1964. I was obviously a very, very, very, very young preacher.

(Laughter)

Bishop Noah W. Moore was presiding when the reading of the ballot took place. He has been in the trenches a long time. He's a hero, not just of mine, but of many others gathered here and scattered across the face of the earth. Bishop Richard Looney has given tremendous leadership for the church in Holston, and then as a bishop of the church in the South Georgia Conference. Would you express to these two giants of the church—pun intended—let's say thank you to these two. Would you do that?

(Applause)

BISHOP HENDERSON: Thank you. You may remain standing. Bishop Ray Chamberlain, the Holston Area. Yes, Mrs. Massey? (Pause) All-rightie, if it's about me, you can't do it.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: (Florida) I'm going to do it any way. (Laughter) Point of personal privilege as head of the Florida delegation. Many of you do not realize that Bishop Henderson has been seriously ill in the past year. We are grateful to him for his leadership and for God for his blessing of healing during this time. Thank you, Bishop Henderson, we're proud of you.

(Sustained applause)

BISHOP RAY W. CHAMBERLAIN JR.: Our sending forth will be in three parts: a petition, and then a question, and then a man date. First, the petition. Let us wait, in silent prayer, remembering God's hurting children all over the world, especially those that have been mentioned here this morning. Let us be in prayer.

(Prayer)

BISHOP RAY W. CHAMBERLAIN JR.: And now for this question. And you may answer, I hope in the affirmative. Are you blessed? (Congregation responds "yes") Try it one more time. Are you blessed?

(Congregation responds louder, "yes") Then go in the name and spirit and the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to your neighbors, wherever and whenever. Amen

(Congregation responds, "Amen.")

Monday Morning May 8, 2000

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: Let's express our appreciation to the Tongan choir that has been with us to day. And—

(Applause)

and to Bishop Arichea, Bishop Arichea. Thank you.

(Applause)

BISHOP IVES: Thank you for standing up; you needed that. Would you be seated please so that we can continue with our work? We begin the first day of the second week of the first General Conference of the Millennium. Let us be in order. Let us come quickly to order. Thanks, Bishop Arichea, for reminding us of our theme that unites us, "We Who Are Many Are One Body." Those of you who are coming to your seats, come quickly to your seats so that we can be of one body in this place. We'll turn to—we'll turn to Mary Alice, who will bring us the order for our work to day.

MARY ALICE MASSEY: Good morning, Bishop Ives and delegates. We're all trying to stay on agenda. It just doesn't seem to work out that way. The agenda for today is published on the inside page—front page—p. 1940, with one addition: At the end of this evening's presentation by the National Plan for Hispanic Ministers, we will be bringing to you the proposed agenda for the following day, and we will be doing this every day this week—every night this week. I move the adoption of the agenda with that change, Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: The agenda is before you. Are there any questions? If you would approve the agenda, please vote yes, number one; two, no, when the light appears. [Yes, 756; No, 10] You've approved the agenda. May we proceed? Gere?

Consent Calendars
A02, B02, C02 approved

FITZGERALD REIST: Good Morning, I'm Fitzgerald Reist, coordinator of the Calendar. Please turn in your *Daily Christian Advocate* for Saturday, May 6, 2000, vol. 4, no. 5, p. 1894.

BISHOP IVES: Gere, perhaps it'd be well for us to begin the practice of giving the numbers first, remember?

REIST: Consent Calendar A02 begins on p. 1894 with Calendar Item 176. On p. 1896, Calendar Item 196 has been removed at the request of delegates.

MASSEY: I move the approval of Consent Calendar A02 with the exception mentioned.

BISHOP IVES: Consent Calendar A02 is before you. If you are ready to vote on the Consent Calendar, vote yes, 1; vote 2, no, when the light appears. You approved Consent Calendar [A02], [Yes, 760; No, 14].

REIST: Consent Calendar B02 begins on p. 1899 with Calendar Item 224. There are no changes.

MASSEY: I move the approval of Consent Calendar B02.

BISHOP IVES: Consent Calendar B02 is before you. If you are ready to vote, please vote yes, number 1, no, number 2. Please vote when the light appears. You approved, [Yes, 809; No, 15].

REIST: Consent Calendar C02 begins on p. 1902 with Calendar Item 250. On p. 1905, Calendar Items 277 and 278 have been removed at the request of delegates.

MASSEY: I move the approval of Consent Calendar C02 with the exception of Calendars Items 277 and 278.

BISHOP IVES: Consent Calendar C02 is before you with those two deletions. If you are ready to vote, please vote yes, number 1, no, number 2 when the light appears. You've approved Consent Calendar C02, [Yes, 832; No, 21].

REIST: In order to avoid some confusion that's come in our office, I would like to remind you that the procedure for removing items from the Consent Calendar is found on p. 1714 of the *DCA*. It is at the very top left-hand column. Any five delegates may have a Consent Calendar Item removed by having such a request on file with the secretary by 3 p.m. of the day the Calendar Item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The forms are available in the secretary's office, Room 204. If the forms are not used, removal requires a suspension of the rules and that wastes precious time that could be better spent on legislation. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you.

MASSEY: This concludes our report.

Policy on Courtesies

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. As we move through our agenda this morning, I have assisting me Bishop Yeakel and

Bishop Skeet, who are behind me. I want to remind you that in those places where we come to debate, (it may not be as many places this morning as there will be later in the session) but in those places where we are in discussion, in holy discussion with one another, we would hope that the people in the gallery and others here would refrain from applause on speeches that are made. It saves our time, which becomes precious, especially this week as we move forward. And, after all friends, this is not about winning and losing, this is about discerning the will of God for the people of God. And as Bishop Thomas reminded some of us yesterday in worship when we were together, his prayer is, and my prayer is as well, that we might, in this place, be God's holy people.

Also in relationship to courtesies and privileges, some of, some persons have jumped to the floor from occasion, from time to time, to make a, what I consider to be a courtesy motion. We wish that you would filter those through the Courtesies Committee. We have a Courtesies Committee. They should go to them. They will print them in the DCA if it seems appropriate to print them. If they seem, sense that it's appropriate to bring them to the floor, they will bring them to the floor on your behalf. So let's handle courtesies in that manner.

And the counselor bishops would like for you to honor at the conclusion of our sessions the withholding of courtesies and words that you might want say in appreciation to people who may have led you in the process. That takes time. We know you love us, and you love a lot of other people, but let's refrain from making those kinds of comments. We'll try not to recognize you if we think you're going to do that. Bishop Henderson gracefully tried to do that the other day, and I appreciate the words that were spoken on behalf of all of us, for he was alive and yet with us to do and to lead us in that wonderful session that we had yesterday. But let's refrain in the future from doing that. We move now to the report of the Committees of Shalom, Community of Shalom.

Report on Communities of Shalom

BISHOP JOSEPH SPRAGUE: Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, the fear in Louisville was that a resolution would be passed, rhetoric would be uttered, and then we would return home having not developed any tangible plans to address the systemic causes that had coalesced to ignite the pain and devastation inherent in the uprising in Los Angeles. Hence, Shalom was born and it has been and it remains on the loose. Shalom, the total well-being of all

humankind. Shalom is asset-based, it is composed of well-trained cadres of disciples of Jesus Christ who work in coalition with the public and private sectors in order that specific rural and urban geographical areas might be served with ministries of peace and justice.

Shalom is a once moribund congregation that, before it passed from life to death found itself, instead, engaged in Shalom. It brought into its midst a lay minister from the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries. Today that Hispanic portion of Shalom has outgrown the small chapel and spilled into the large sanctuary. That same congregation is in coalition with other congregations, with the city government, and with the private sector to the degree that every day after school there is a kid's club, which on Saturday overflows the building with youngsters of every imaginable hue. That same congregation recently received from the hands of the city government 400,000 dollars in order that, in collaboration with one another, the last crack house in the neighborhood might be expunged, and in place of the crack house, called infamously "the blue house," a new brown house might be created in which six low-income families are now safely and adequately housed.

Shalom has to do with that same ministry of that same congregation now bursting with life, going to that place where a drive-by shooting had killed a young man in order to pray there that the demon of violence might be exorcised from that community. Shalom is this and more in over 300 sites, both in this nation and around the world.

BISHOP SPRAGUE: —has to do with this church, both in '92 and '96 saying yes, not with many financial resources, but with a few financial resources in order that much might be done for the whole church. Now you know and I know that certain persons have been at the heart of the ministry of Shalom. Felton May gave Shalom soul. Staff leaders, John Showl and Linda Bird have given Shalom body. And then there have been those who from the beginning have been inherent to the process, all of whom who will make transition from leadership this year, who have given thoughtful counsel to the evolution of Shalom. Those persons are Jack Lee and Patricia Morton, who are here today simply, but profoundly, for this presentation. We also include the late John Sagan, and General Conference delegates, Jerome Del Pino and my colleague Myron McCoy.

Bishop, as Myron McCoy comes to the podium to complete the spoken portion of our report, prior to the video presentation,

which in deed will conclude it, I would like to request the suspension of the rules in order that the Shalom brochure might be distributed among the delegates.

BISHOP IVES: Motion is to suspend the rule for the distribution of this material. If you would so order, please vote when the light appears. You have suspended the rule [*Yes, 756; No, 32*].

BISHOP SPRAGUE: Thank you Bishop and thank you delegates. And now as we move toward conclusion, I present to you Dr. Myron McCoy.

MYRON MCCOY (Northern Illinois): Thank you Bishop Sprague. On behalf of the communities of Shalom, I take this opportunity to express gratitude and great pride in the more than 350 Shalom sites across these United States and in West and South America. Nothing that was done in our planning and implementation could have been accomplished without the commitment and energy of thousands of children, women, men, clergy and laity, who embraced what the initiative sought to be and made it a reality. In our wildest imaginations we did not envision that this ministry would become what it has. We are grateful to be a part of its development and growth and we are certain that this is God's work. Shalom communities have tackled overwhelming problems and accomplished solutions that can only be explained through the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This morning we come to celebrate the work that God is doing through our United Methodist Church. We come to affirm churches and communities that dare to do things differently. We come to encourage other churches, districts, and annual conferences to experience this ministry. We come to ask your continued support of the community of Shalom with your prayers and resources. And last but not least we come to offer thanks to God for entrusting to us such a powerful and healing ministry in our increasingly fragile and broken world.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you for your report. Could the conference say with me, "Shalom is on the loose."

BISHOP and the CONFERENCE: Shalom is on the loose.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you so much.

MCCOY: And Bishop, the report will now be concluded with the video presentation.

(Video)

BISHOP IVES: Thank you.

(Song)
(Applause)

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: Thank you for this presentation and for our awareness again that Sha lom is loose all around the world. We come to that time in our guests—on mike 2.

Resolution on Philippines Reconsidered

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Bishop Ives, I move to reconsider the resolution on the Philippine situation in order to hear from the Bishop Paul Granadosin of that area. And if I get a second I will speak to it.

BISHOP IVES: Been moved and seconded. Would you like to speak to that?

MASSEY: Yes. It's been brought to our attention that perhaps we acted in haste. We did not hear both sides of the issue, and I think it only fair that we allow our bishops from that area to speak to this resolution.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, let's see if anybody wants to speak to the motion to reconsider. I see no one asking for the floor. The motion what—to what—? Yes, come to mike 3.

RICARTE R. RAPISORA: Bishop?

BISHOP IVES: Name and conference please?

RAPISORA (Mindanao Philippines)

BISHOP IVES: Yes.

RAPISORA: Bishop, I want to move for a substitute resolution regarding the peace and conflict situation of our place.

BISHOP IVES: While we're—this is a motion, the motion is to reconsider, and we need to decide whether we're going to reconsider it—

BISHOP IVES:—before your substitute would be in order.

RAPISORA: After studying the resolution passed last Saturday—

BISHOP IVES: Let's—we, we need to, we need to decide if we're going to reconsider it—

BISHOP IVES:—before you have a chance to speak, so would—

BISHOP IVES:—you just hold, please?

BISHOP GRANADOSIN: Yes sir.

BISHOP IVES: If, if you would order reconsideration, please vote 1 when the light, yes, and 2, no when the light appears. Right.

You have voted to reconsider this matter. A part of the motion for reconsideration was to hear, first, from Bishop Granadosin. Can you hold while we give Bishop Granadosin that, that privilege? Bishop Granadosin.

BISHOP PAUL GRANADOSIN: Bishops and members of this 2000 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, I am most grateful for this opportunity to be able to say something regarding a resolution which was passed Friday morning in relation to the situation in the Davao Episcopal area on the island of Mindanao. The area that I supervise is considered to be one of the largest, if not the largest, episcopal area in United Methodism. Some of you know that there are 7,107 islands in the Philippines, with three major islands—Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. All of the islands not attached to Luzon, which is the largest island in the Philippines, belongs to the Davao Episcopal area.

Now on behalf of the Philippine delegation, I would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the support and prayers embodied in the resolution of the Mindanao Southern Philippines problem, which has created trouble and sorrow in that second-largest island in the Philippines for the past 500 years. Most, if not all, Filipino delegates were surprised by the presentation of the resolution by clergy delegate from the Kansas East Annual Conference. Since the full text of the resolution was not supplied to delegates prior to presentation to plenary, no one from the Philippines, particularly those from Mindanao Island, was able to speak.

BISHOP IVES: Bishop Granadosin, you're under the three-minute time limit like everybody else. You're under the three-minute time limit—like everybody else, so—

BISHOP GRANADOSIN: There are some implications of the resolution in its approved form. The singling out by naming the Abu Sayyaf group and the Muslim rebels as perpetrators of violence with no mention of government military operations, which continue in spite of appeals by the insurgents themselves, civic and religious groups for the cessation of hostilities, so peace might come back to the bargaining table as a subject of discussion, places United Methodist people, especially the bishop, in extreme danger.

BISHOP IVES: Your three minutes is up so please wind up your comments please.

BISHOP GRANADOSIN: Now we are a member of Bishop's ULAMA Forum. This is a dialogue created in 1996, consisting of Roman Catholic bishops and priests, Protestant heads of churches, and representatives from the Muslim constituency, who in the spirit of interreligious dialogue, affirm their commitment to the peace process.

Finally, on Mindanao Island today former disjoined revolutionary units and terrorist

groups have banded together and proclaimed a desire to secede from the Republic of the Philippines to create a separate Islamic state, this, in spite of the fact Muslims are in the minority. Support now comes from neighboring Muslim countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Libya, and Iraq. Any opposition from the outside is considered interference, which is against Islamic opposition against foreign influence, let alone domination.

My appeal to this conference then is discretion in addressing the Philippines' Muslim issue for fear we might lose valued ground we have won on the peace process.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP GRANADOSIN: Your prayers have followed us and God is our only hope. Thank you very much.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Bishop Granadosin. The three minutes goes very fast for all of us. Thank you.

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: The person who was at mike 3 that I have recognized earlier. Yes, come to mike three.

Philippines Substitute Resolution

RICARTE R. RAPISORA (Mindanao Philippines): Bishop, I move for a substitute resolution to read: "We rejoice with the reported release of 15 hostages previously held by extremist Muslim rebels. We share the agony of those 21 hostages from Sipadan Island in Malaysia, among them French, German, Lebanese, South African, Finnish and Malaysian nationalities who face continuing uncertainties. We condemn the outbreak of violent conflict involving the rebels and the Philippine government in 14 localities in Mindanao including those in Sulo and Basilan Islands. Be it hereby resolved that the General Conference 2000 of the United Methodist Church, express its prayer that hostilities immediately cease; that food, medicines, clothing, and safe refuge be insured by all parties to those whose lives are in their hands; and that humanitarian agencies be allowed to care for them until ultimate return of peace in their lands; that we join all who desire a solution of the conflicts and the struggles that will build a just and durable peace; that we call upon all peoples to recognize one another to be in community with each other in the hope of a just world order, upholding how all persons and groups must feel secure in their life and right to live within society if or der is to be achieved and maintained by law; and that we especially express this hope to both Christians and non-Christians alike, who live the rigors of southern Philippines community." This is all, bishop.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. You have presented that as a substitute for the previous—for the resolution which we have under consideration. Is it seconded? Okay, now when we have a substitute, we're in the situation where we need to perfect the original before we move to the perfection of the substitute. You do not have the original in your hands. It has not been published yet, even in the proceedings of the work that we did the other day. How do you wish to proceed? Recognize. Get at no. 3. No. 3.

PATRICK P. STREIF (Switzerland-France): I think the best thing is if both petitions, the original one and the substitute can be first published in the DCA. And then we have the text and we can understand the text and then vote on it. So, I do not know how to say it in the language of the rules, but . . .

BISHOP IVES: Is there somebody who would like to help?

STREIF: If I say move to table, it will be printed afterwards in the DCA?

BISHOP IVES: Moving to table would put it in a different category than moving to postpone.

STREIF: And if I say, move to postpone, it will be . . .

BISHOP IVES: You're moving that we postpone action on this until . . . (*laughter*)

STREIF: . . . until it is printed in the DCA.

BISHOP IVES: Until it is printed in the DCA.

STREIF: So I move to postpone until it is printed in the DCA.

(*Applause*)

BISHOP IVES: Any other discussion? If you would support postponing until these matters have been printed in the DCA, please vote when the light appears. (*Voting occurs*) You have moved to postpone, [*Yes, 882; No, 27*].

Call For First Judicial Council Ballot

Okay, we move to a time in our agenda when we will be taking our first ballots for election of Judicial Council members. I remind you that election of Judicial Council members—the Judicial Council, if you need to look in the *Discipline*, we're dealing with paragraph 2602. We will elect 9 members of the Judicial Council and that paragraph specifically states that this should reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the United Methodist Church.

Nominations that have been made—you made them from the floor last Friday—are on p. 1877 through 1881, and also on p. 1948. Those are the persons for whom

you can vote, those and those only. We are to elect 3 laypersons and we are to elect 3 clergypersons. We will be electing 2 clergypersons to serve for 8 years, and 1 clergyperson to serve for 4 years. That's completing the term of somebody who is leaving the council.

We will vote, as you were reminded the other day, by electronic means. This will take a little practice for us at first, but my understanding is that we will elect—the way the computers have been programmed—we will elect, the first election will be for lay members to the Judicial Council. I remind you that you are to elect 3. What will appear on the screen will be the lay members with a number, as you can see. You will vote 3 times; that is, I will call for a vote and you will vote for 1. After that has been completed, I will call for a second vote, and you will vote a second time. The computers are fixed so that you can not vote for the same person twice; it'll just disappear—so don't try to do that—it'll just throw it out if you do that. You will have to vote for 3 different persons, so when we're ready to take the first vote, you will vote for 1, I'll call it again and you'll vote for the second, then we'll move to the clergy ballot, and I'll explain that when we get to that.

I remind you that as we begin this process, there will be some delay in the results coming back to us throughout the morning. And perhaps the next day or two, we will in the process of doing this, so we'll try to get back to it as we move forward. I see a green card. Come to no. 4, please. (*Pause*)

PHILLIP F. CONNOLLY (West Ohio Conference): Lay. This morning, an orange sheet was distributed down the rows that I was sitting in, with the recommendations to make this an inclusive delegation. This doesn't appear to be an official document, and I don't know where it comes from. Can you help us know if this is a document of the conference or if there was permission to distribute it?

BISHOP IVES: Does anybody know the answer to that question? It's not asked for. We are to vote and we are to elect—I made those comments from here, but I didn't know they were already before you on the floor—but we don't even know it's out there. It is not an official document of the General Conference.

CONNOLLY: Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: And how it was distributed, I am unaware. In the back, I see someone at mike 8. I remind you that we are to vote without discussion. If this is a question, that's in order, but there are no speeches to be made regarding this. Yes, no. 8.

HOWARD J. MASON (Pennsylvania-Delaware): Bishop, I would like to ask, as a point of reference, the names and the numbers on the screen are not seen by some of us older people and I would like to know how we could get the numbers so we could see them easier.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, that's a procedural issue. There are some who are in the house who can not see the screen and see the numbers. Ask the secretary of the conference if there's any way to deal with this. Carolyn? The secretary will read those numbers, if you would like to have them read now? Carolyn, will you read those? For the laity, let's read the numbers for the laity so that if anybody has sight impairment we will be all together on this. Do you have the numbers? Do you have the numbers? They're on the board, on the screen.

Laity Candidates for Judicial Council

CAROLYN MARSHALL: No. 1. Rodolfo Beltran; 2. Lonnie D. Brooks; 3. Evelyn "Lynn" Caterson; 4. James Lamark Cox Sr.; 5. Mary A. Daffin; 6. Paul Ervin; 7. Daniel F. Evans Jr.; 8. Oscar R. Ferrer; 9. Theophilous Gambe; 10. Sally Geis; 11. Jon R. Gray; 12. Edward H. Hill; 13. James W. Holsinger; 14. Daniel A. Ivey-Soto; 15. Steven T. Lett; 16. Mark D. Loud; 17. Ann Alberty Saunkeah; 18. William L. (Ted) Todd Jr.; 19. William White; 20. W. Clark Williams.

BISHOP IVES: I think we're ready to vote. I see another way in the back. Yes, I see you, green jacket.

Remember, we are to have no speeches, only questions about the process.

LA VON WILSON (Illinois Great Rivers): Bishop, this is a question for clarification. When we vote we vote for the number—not the one and two—for yes and no?

BISHOP IVES: That's right.

WILSON: Am I correct on that?

BISHOP IVES: Right.

WILSON: There was some question on that.

BISHOP IVES: You will push the numbers that correspond to the number which is identified—which identifies the person.

WILSON: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: OK. I saw a hand here. Come to number 2 please.

BISHOP IVES: Will you wait for the translation please.

WILSON: We have the name but we don't know the people we are voting about.

BISHOP IVES: As I indicated earlier, the people—the information about the people—their biographical information is on page 1877 through 1881 in your *DCA* plus 1948. On those pages it tells you exactly the same thing that everybody else knows and nothing more.

We wanted to see them to put the name and the figure so we would be able to vote.

The suggestion is that they would like to see these persons. Part of the problem is that they are not all here. All of the persons would not be present, perhaps. We are—the rules are pretty clear that we are supposed to elect without discussion. Yes, Mary Alice.

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): I believe there is an error on page 1948 because it says additional biographical sketch in correction to judicial council nominees and it lists Sheila Fleming. I believe Sheila is a nominee for the University Senate and so that . . .

BISHOP IVES: . . . ought not to appear on that list.

MASSEY: Right

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. We're only voting for the persons who are on the screen, and the ones that the secretary mentioned. I think we are ready to take the first vote. Remember we are going to vote for one—we are going to vote for three people—we are going to do them one at a time, okay. So you are going to cast your first ballot, lay ballot, first vote for laity for the Judicial Council. Every one in this conference is eligible to vote. You have a pad in front of you. Please vote to elect when the light appears. Okay, you have voted once, now you are going to vote again. Remember, I said you are going to vote three times, once, twice, and your going to vote for your second person at this point. Please vote when the light appears. And now you are going to vote a third time—for a different person, a different number. Please vote when the light appears.

You have completed ballot number 1 for laity for Judicial Council, we'll move to ballot number 1 for clergy. The way the program is set, we are going to vote for two, we will vote for 2, there are 3 persons to be elected but on this first sequence, we are going to vote for two—the two who would serve the 8 year term, so we will vote for two persons. After those have been elected then we will come back and elect the next person who will serve for a 4 year term. That is just the way they program this for us, so on this first clergy ballot I am going to ask you to punch in the numbers for those who—you know, the first person you're going to vote for. Then I will call for the sec-

ond person. Do we need a reading of the list again, Carolyn?

On 1879—look to page 1879—you will see the list and you can write the numbers besides the names if you have some sight problems. Carolyn, will you read those names? The clergy nominees . . .

Clergy Candidates for Judicial Council

CAROLYN MARSHALL: 1-Keith D. Boyete, 2-Elsie J. Crickard, 3-Frank B. Davies, 4-Ralph Lawrence Dill III, 5-Philip Fenn, 6-Thomas H. (Tom) Griffith, 7-Susan Henry-Crowe, 8-Belton F. Joyner, 9-Larry Pickens, 10-Thomas Shanklin, 11-Robert K. Sweet Jr., 12-Francine Taylor-Thirus, 13-Jane Tews, 14-Linda Thomas, 15-Theodore "Ted" Walter.

BISHOP IVES: We are ready to take the first ballot for clergy for the Judicial Council. Do I see a hand over here? No I don't. It's someone standing on the balcony. It looked like a hand. If you're ready to cast the first ballot for clergy please vote when the light appears.

If you are now ready to cast your vote for second person, remember don't push the same number. This is a different number, please vote when the light appears.

Okay, we have completed the clergy ballot number one. As I said before we are going to vote for the third person after these first two have been elected. Then we will vote for the person who will serve the 4-year term. We are voting for eight-year terms to be gin with. We also have on our agenda this morning election of Conference Secretary. Nomination for Conference Secretary comes from the Council of Bishops. It is on page 1751 in your, 1751, 1-7-5-1 which indicates that the council of bishops is nominating Carolyn Marshall as the secretary for the General Conference. The floor is open for additional nominations. Are there, do I see any additional nominations. Yes, number four, come to number four.

RODNEY G. STEELE (North Arkansas): Bishop, I might be confused but I thought we were electing three clergy to the Judicial Council: two for eight year, and one for 4-year. Am I misunderstanding?

BISHOP IVES: You are absolutely correct, and we are going to elect the two first and when those two are elected we are going to come back and elect the third. Okay?

STEELE: Thank you, sir.

Carolyn Marshall Re-elected Secretary

BISHOP IVES: OK. Now we are on election of the Secretary of the General Confer-

ence. The name of Carolyn Marshall has been placed in nomination.

ANITA CRUMP (Louisiana): Bishop?

BISHOP IVES: Yes, come to microphone number four.

CRUMP: I move that a nomination be closed and that Carolyn Marshall be elected by acclamation.

BISHOP IVES: Motion is that nominations be closed. It has been moved and seconded that Carolyn Marshall who would be elected by acclamation. If you would so order, please vote when the light appears.

You have elected Carolyn Marshall. (*applause*).

BISHOP IVES: We move from this point to consideration of calendar items. I believe we're going to hear first from independent commissions. Are we ready to do that? How ready are we? We need to be gin to make sure we're ready to be on the floor. Ok, since we're waiting and having time, let's take our break at this point. Let's break until 20 after and then we'll be gin with this item. A ballot, we have the opportunity to take another election, another vote before we proceed. If those in the house would be gin to be seated, others coming in will move more quickly. Cynthia's going to lead us in a song to bring us to gether. Cynthia.

*Unauthorized Document Distributed.
Tainted Election Charged*

(Singing-Oh How I Love Jesus)

BISHOP IVES: Thank you and will you please be seated. We are about to hear the results of a ballot. As you come to your seats, those who are coming, come quickly and those of you who are in your seats, please give your attention here so we can be gin to have conversation with each other. I have been informed in regard to this item that was on your desk, I want to remind everybody in the house that nothing is to be distributed on the desk of the delegates. Nothing, without the permission of the whole body. I understand that this was prepared and given in packets to the heads of delegations and they were asked to distribute it to the members of the delegations. I remind heads of delegations, that at some points maybe you will need to be the enforcer and say that is not something I can do. And those who seek to do this, as you can see already, are making our process a little bit more complicated because it does confuse the issue. So, no distribution of materials. This is not an official document of the general conference. I see someone at mike 4—green card.

WIL LIAM A. HINES (West Ohio): Our chair person did not get this to pass out. It

was passed out at each table. I would make a motion that we declare the election null and void unless all caucus groups get to pass out their particular viewpoints.

BISHOP IVES: Your motion, is it seconded? I hear seconds. You want to make this election process null and void.

HINES: That's right. There are too many people that use this particular paper here to vote on and it is completely out of line and it was passed out without our knowledge in this conference and it ought to be, the election ought to be declared null and void.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, I hear your motion. Does anybody wish to speak to this motion? Motion is that the voting process to this point be called, be null and void. Yes go to mike 4.

VANCE SUMMERS (West Ohio): Bishop, can you determine if each delegation received this or that piece of paper or was it only distributed to part of us?

BISHOP IVES: I'm not sure that we can take the time to poll the whole conference to find the answer to that question.

SUMMERS: Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: In the back, come to mike 8.

BEVERLY WILKES (Illinois Great Rivers): I speak against throwing out the last ballot because we all have our own minds and I think that we had ample time to choose our nominees and so I would speak against that in the interests of saving time and trusting each person to have voted their own conscience.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Mike 7. Yes, I see you.

JAMES EHRMAN (East Ohio): Bishop, it seems to me the problem we have is how best to take care of the improper distribution. The suggestion from Mr. Hines would simply make the process more political and therefore, I would urge that we vote down the motion so that we have as little damage as possible going forward.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, we have had two speeches against the motion, does anybody want to speak in favor of the motion? Number 4, are you speaking for the you're the maker of the motion, right?

BILL COUCH (Northwest Texas): No. This is just a question for clarification. Is the motion to invalidate the whole election or just the first ballot?

BISHOP IVES: My understanding is that it had to do with the first ballot. That's the way I interrupted that. Is your speech in favor of the motion? Number 4.

PHILLIP CONNOLLY (West Ohio): I speak in favor of the motion. I'd like to move to amend the motion. I'd like to amend the motion to say that the ballot be taken, establish an order of the day, to tomorrow morning and all caucus groups have an opportunity to distribute slates to the delegation. If I can have a second, I'd speak to that.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, is it second to that? I see a second, yes.

CONNOLLY: I also regret that this is becoming political, and it clearly is political now. We don't know yet, where this part came from, we believe that if all caucus groups had an opportunity to share a slate of people, it would at least put us on an even bar and we would have some sense of parity about this issue. There isn't any way we can recover this and it may well be one of the most important votes that are taken this week in determining how the *Discipline* will be administered in the church in the next eight years.

BISHOP IVES: We're on the substitute amendment. In the back, do you want to speak to the amendment? We have somebody at mike 8.

DAVID WILSON (Little Rock): I call the question on all that is before the house.

BISHOP IVES: It is not in order because people have not had a time to speak to it. If people want to speak to it, you still have not had sufficient numbers to speak to the item. Yes, number, Oh excuse me, over here at mike 1. Number 1.

BROOKE CONKLIN (Troy): I would like to speak against the amendment as well as against the whole motion because all this paper does is to break down into the different jurisdictions where the people are from. It does not tell you who to vote for. I also wish that it was broken down to let us know ethnicity; the gender, because we say with lip service we are an inclusive church and yet, especially for people from Central Conferences and myself, I do not know the ethnicity or anything of these people. We need this as well as more information.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. At mike 4. Yes. I recognize the person here.

PHYLLIS FERGUSON (Pacific Northwest): I want, as the speaker before me did, to speak against the amendment and against the motion. We all know who've all been politicking to get Judicial Council and simply because somebody wrote down on the piece of paper a preference of some few people does not, is not grounds to dismiss this ballot. I would vote against both motions. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Okay. I have two speeches against the amendment and one speech in favor of the amendment. Is there anybody else who wants to speak in favor of the amendment? In the back number 7.

TOM FLINN (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I would like to call for the question on all that is before us.

BISHOP IVES: Somebody tried that a few minutes ago and I said we needed at least 2 speeches before that is in order. I won't recognize it. Somebody else? Speak to the amendment. Yes. Need somebody in favor of the amendment. Our rules clearly indicate that you can not call the previous question unless 2 people on each side at least have had the opportunity to speak. Yes.

DAVE MENDYK (Nebraska): I would speak in favor of really voiding this process because it has been tainted and we really can not afford to make a mistake.

Vote to Cancel Judicial Vote Defeated

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. I think you are ready to vote. Those of you who would support the amendment vote 1, press 1. Those who would not press 2 when the light appears. The amendment is not supported [Yes, 174; No, 720] which brings us back to the original motion, which is declaring the ballot null and void. Are you ready to vote on that? If you are please vote on the original motion when the light appears. Motion is defeated [Yes, 209; No, 700]. Let us hear the results of ballot no. 1, Laity.

Laity ballot ready, is it ready to come up? I was told it is ready to be reported, if not we are going on to other business. Call on Harold Batiste to bring a report of the committee. We'll come back to the report later. Thank you. Independent Commissions, Harold Batiste.

HAROLD BATISTE (Southwest Texas): Good morning Bishop Ives and members of the General Conference. Members of the leadership team for the Independent Commissions legislative committee are vice-chair person, David Banks, clergy delegate of the North Carolina Conference, secretary Margie Briggs, lay delegate of the Missouri West Conference. I serve as chairperson, and I'm Harold Batiste, lay delegate of the Southwest Texas Conference. We present the results of action taken on 2 petitions by our very capable and diligent committee. We have 2 calendar items respectively 173 and 174.

BISHOP IVES: Would you please give page numbers first.

HAROLD BATISTE: Page numbers first. Calendar Item 173, DCA p. 1849, in

the *Advance DCA* p. 1393 recorded as Petition 30310 and the subject "Sexual Ethics within Ministerial Relationships in The United Methodist Church." Bishop Ives, we move concurrence.

BISHOP IVES: The committee moves concurrence. Do you want to speak to that? Calendar Items are 173.

BATISTE: Calendar items are 173.

BISHOP IVES: Calendar Item 173. The recommendation of the committee is concurrence. Yes sir. I see a yellow card way in the, come to number 6, yes, yellow card.

TAKAYUKI ISHII (New York): I would like to support this resolution. I am have been a member of General Commission on Status and Role of Women for the last 8 years. This updated resolution "Sexual Ethics within Ministerial Relationships in The United Methodist Church" is a cooperative effort of GCFA and General Commission on Status and Role of Women, GBHEM, and with an annual conferences. We have updated this resolution from recent surveys of annual conferences and this resolution continues our commitment to healing and prevention in The United Methodist Church. So I urge you for concurrence.

BISHOP IVES: That's a speech in favor. I think you are ready to vote. If you support the committee please vote, if you would, if you are ready to take action please vote when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendation [Yes, 859; No, 38].

BATISTE: Bishop Ives in the *DCA* p. 1849 Calendar Item 174, in the *Advance DCA* p. 1399 recorded as Petition 30734. And Bishop the committee recommends concurrence. Concurrence as amended sir.

BISHOP IVES: See the amendment on p. 1849. Amendment to 174. Move concurrence. Any question? Please vote when the light appears. You've supported the committee [Yes, 785; No, 112].

BATISTE: That concludes our report sir.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Thank you Harold. Do we have the report of the ballot?

BISHOP IVES: It will take 30 seconds for the ballot results to come up, they tell me. So we have to be patient for about 24 more seconds. Okay, one of the things that happens when we go to "yes" or "no" votes is that it kicks into a different program; we have to wait for it to come back up again. So, let's be patient maybe and we'll have it here. Yes, come to mike 1.

DARLENE DAWES (Central Pennsylvania): I'd like to make a motion please. In consideration of the comments from our Central Conference sister, I make a motion that, for

the 2004 General Conference, pictures be included for the nominees to the Judicial Council and the University Senate.

BISHOP IVES: Is that seconded?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second

BISHOP IVES: It is moved and seconded. If we go back to the other program and vote at this point, that's going to delay us some more. Would you be willing to hold that until we've heard the report of the ballot so that we don't mess the system up again?

DAWES: Yes, sir.

First Laity Judicial Ballot Announced

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Here's the report in front of you. The valid number of votes, valid ballots, needed to elect 457, invalid ballots 25. There is no election. You need to have the ballot read perhaps because some of you have indicated sight problems before. Mary Daffin, 344, Rodolfo Beltrán 266, James Holsinger 251, Sally Geis 233, Paul Irvin 217, Mark Loud 212, John Gray 208, Daniel Evans Jr. 149, Edward Hill 115, William White 111, Ellen Peterson 103, Daniel Ivey-Soto 91, James Lanmark Cox Sr. 86, Lonnie Brooks 79, (pause) Ann Saunkeah 78, Clark Williams 64, Theophilus Gambe 49, Oscar Ferrer 47, William Louder Jr. 18, William Todd Jr. 18, Stephen Lett 15.

Think you should be prepared to vote again. We'll do it the same way we did before. You'll vote three times. Remember, I'll call for one. Once that's completed, I'll call for the second. If you're ready for ballot number 2, on laity for the Judicial Council, please vote when the light appears. (pause) Do you want some more time?

GROUP RESPONSE: Yes

BISHOP IVES: Okay, is it on the screen?

GROUP RESPONSE: No

BISHOP IVES: It's on my screen. It was here a minute ago. We need the (names of the) laypersons to be elected on the screen so that we'll have the numbers. There, now you have it. They're in the book as well.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bishop!

BISHOP IVES: Let's invalidate that ballot because we had a point of order, a question, and we had just put the numbers up. I'd called it for before you got them, so let's start again. Point of order in the back. (Pause) Mike 8.

BOB SWEET (New England): Bishop, some of us can see the numbers all right, we just can't register them fast enough. Can we have the slate up there for a longer period of time before the vote?

BISHOP IVES: The answer is yes. Let's put the slate up. We'll pause so you have time to turn to p. 1877 and you can number them in your book and you'll have them. Okay, are you ready now? If you're ready to cast ballot #2 for the Judicial Council laity, please vote when the light appears. (Pause) Vote for one.

(Voting occurs)

BISHOP IVES: Okay, if you're ready again, if you're ready to vote for a second person different from the one you voted for last, please vote when the light appears. (Pause) And then if you're ready to vote for a third person, please vote when the light appears. (Pause) Okay, that completes the balloting for ballot #2 for the laity. I understand that the clergy ballot also is ready; if we could see the results of the clergy ballot on the screen. It may take a few seconds. Can somebody assure me that the clergy ballot is coming up? It's coming, they say. Okay, valid votes 1,879, valid ballots 950. Needed to elect 470, in valid ballots 8. There is no election.

First Clergy Judicial Council Ballot Announced

Let me read them as I did before. Larry Pickens 331, Keith Boyette 246, Theodore Walter 246, Jane Tews 201, Susan Henry-Crowe 157, Belton F. Joyner, 128, Robert Sweet Jr. 115, Linda Thomas 88, Philip Fenn 82, Frank Davies 74, Ralph Dills III 73, Francine Telathirus 54, Elsie Crickard 49, Thomas Griffin 22, Thomas Shanklin 13.

BISHOP IVES: We're voting again. We're voting for two at this point, remember, we're voting just for the two who will be elected for the eight-year term, and let's get those names up on the screen so that we'll have time to be ready to vote. I see a question back here, come to mike 7 please.

BILL SCOTT (Mississippi): I would like to know how do I know which nominee is for four years and which is for eight years?

BISHOP IVES: All of these nominees are for eight years. All of the ones that we're electing at this point are for eight years.

SCOTT: So everyone in the book can serve for eight years?

BISHOP IVES: Correct.

SCOTT: Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: And then after we've elected them, then we will elect another person who will complete a term which will be for four years. We haven't had those up. There they are. There's the clergy . . . clergy persons who have been nominated to the Judicial Council. Are you ready to vote?

Remember that you're going to vote twice. Please vote when the light appears. *(Pause)* You're ready to vote for a second person? Please vote when the light appears.

OK. We've completed Clergy Ballot No. 2 and we're going to move back to hearing—dealing with some calendar items. We're going to go to Higher Education Minutes. LaVon Wilson, are you ready to, ready to report? . . .

[Point of Order made, inaudible.]

Excuse me. Thank you. Your point of order is well taken. I said I would recognize . . . you.

*Motion Made to Picture
Judicial Council Candidates in DCA*

DARLENE DAWES (Central Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. I'd like this motion to please be considered. In considering the comments from our central conference sister, I make a motion that for the 2004 General Conference, pictures be included for the nominees to the Judicial Council and the University Senate. This is but a small way to address one of their concerns, and as well as being an important for all of us to know the ethnicity, age, and gender order for us to be inclusive in our voting.

BISHOP IVES: OK, I think—I think we hear your motion, it was seconded. I think your motion would be in order if it was a motion to refer to the Commission on General Conference.

DAWES: Then, I so move that, please.

BISHOP IVES. OK. The motion is to adopt this and refer it to the Commission on General Conference. Any questions? If you would approve, if you would—if you're ready to vote on this item, please vote when the light appears. Please vote when the light appears—here it is. You have voted to refer, *[Yes, 793; No, 137]*. LaVon Wilson, are you ready to go now?

LAVON WILSON (Illinois Great Rivers): I'm ready, Bishop. If you would open your DCAs to page 1848, Calendar Item 165, Petition 30182; in your *Advance DCA*, Page 1020. The committee concurs with reference to GCF&A because this item contains money. Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: 165 is before you. Any questions? If you would support, if you would approve and refer to GCFA, please vote when the light appears. *[Yes, 881; No, 24]* You supported 881 to . . . something. Went off the screen quicker than I could read it! Go ahead, LaVon.

(Laughter)

WILSON: In your *DCA*, page 1836, Calendar Item 22, Petition 30739; *Advance DCA*, 955. The committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP IVES: The committee recommends concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. You have concurred, *[Yes, 876; No, 26]*. LaVon?

WILSON: Page 1909. The following four will be on this page. Calendar Item 323, Petition 30129; *Advance DCA*, 963. The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP IVES: The committee recommends nonconcurrency on No. 323. If you would support the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency, you would vote 1; if you would not, vote 2 when the light appears. You have supported nonconcurrency, *[Yes, 649; No, 243]*.

WILSON: On the same page, Calendar Item 324, Petition 30657; the *Advance DCA*, 962. The committee recommends nonconcurrency.

BISHOP IVES. You have before you, Petition [Calendar Item No.] 324. Committee recommends nonconcurrency. If you would support the committee in nonconcurrency, vote yes when the light appears; if you would not, vote no when the light appears. You've supported nonconcurrency, *[Yes, 705; No, 210]*.

WILSON: On the same page, Calendar Item 325, Petition 30667; *Advance DCA*, 966. The committee recommends concurrence as amended.

BISHOP IVES: On 325, you see the amendment. Recommendation is for concurrence as amended. Yes, go to mike 4. Or is it easier to go to 3? Which ever way you go, easier way. Coming to mike 4.

*Amendment on Economic Development
Debated*

MARGARET M. MALLORY (West Ohio): Bishop, I would speak against the amendment and the reinstatement of the original language.

BISHOP IVES: OK, you're, you're moving to amend the committee report by deletion of the amendment . . . ?

MALLORY: And the reinstatement of the original language.

BISHOP IVES: OK. If you're moving to delete the amendment, the original language would remain.

MALLORY: Yes.

BISHOP IVES: Yes. Is there a second to that? I hear a second. Would you like to speak to that?

MALLORY: Yes sir. Many new pastors are appointed in rural areas, and the specificity of having economic development as part of their duties is needed. It's helpful in helping them to understand what needs to be done—as well as being a role model. The pastor is a role model in organizing, and I think it's really necessary, especially in rural areas, that that specificity be there.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Any others wishing to speak on the amendment, the amendment to delete? Yes, I see a green card. Go back to 6.

EDWARD A. KAIL (Iowa): I support this recent motion out of concern that we be able to support faith-based community organizing in both rural and urban contexts. We just received the report of the Sha lom Zone Initiative, and I believe it's vital in support of communities of Sha lom that we be able to engage in organization on many different levels, including economic development, community development, and church development. I would ask you to support this amendment.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Yes, over here. Come to 4.

THOMAS O. GARNHART (Wisconsin): I would oppose the amendment to take out the amendment, in that I am a strong supporter of community organizing and economic development; but this would put that into the paragraph of duties for all pastors, and I would hope that all pastors would encourage those things to happen, but I do not think it's an appropriate expectation for every pastor to be personally involved in organizing and economic development, though I sure hope they're supportive of it.

BISHOP IVES: Is there anybody else wishing to speak against the amendment? The chair has something to—the chair of the committee? Do you have any comment to make? ("FINE" heard) OK, what is before us is the amendment to delete the amendment, on Item No. 325, which would leave the petition as it is originally printed. If you understand, I'm going to call now for your vote on the amendment to delete those words that are on page 327. If you're ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. You did not support the amendment—*[Yes, 360; No, 559]*. We're back to the Item No. 325 as it is printed. If you would support the committee's recommendation for concurrence as amended, please vote when the light appears.

BISHOP IVES: You have supported concurrence *[Yes, 771; No, 145]* LaVon.

WILSON: On p. 1909, Calendar Item 326, Petition 30066 *Advance DCA*, p. 964,

the committee recommends nonconcurrency, Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: The committee recommends nonconcurrency on Petition 326. If you're ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. You supported concurrency by [*Yes, 590; No, 317*].

WILSON: Bishop, that concludes our group for the present time.

BISHOP IVES: That concludes your work at this present time and we're going to move to Finance and Administration. Committee on Finance and Administration. Point of order, yes, come to Mike 1 and state your point of order please.

JOE P. PEABODY (North Georgia): On item #323, I thought I heard the chair say that we had voted concurrency and the committee moved non-concurrency, it did not. . .

BISHOP IVES: We voted concurrency with nonconcurrency.

PEABODY: Alright, I'm embarrassed then. So my understanding what the house did.

BISHOP IVES: Some times that is confusing, that's OK. Yes, Finance and Administration.

STAN SAGER (New Mexico): Bishop, it's my.

BISHOP IVES: Do we have the microphone here? In the middle?

*Financial Administration Team
Introduced*

SAGER: Bishop, it's my pleasure to introduce the wonderful members of the Financial Administration team. To my right is Ernie Swiggett, who is a lay delegate from the New York delegation and to my left is Phyllis Rodriguez who is a lay delegate from Wisconsin, I am Stan Sager, I am a lay delegate from New Mexico. The items before you will be six, I would refer you first to Calendar Item 306, which appears on p. 1907 of the *DCA*, it refers to Petition 30478 on page 428 of the *ADCA*.

BISHOP IVES: Could you give us the petition number again? Some times when we get the petition number then here the page number per then go back to the petition number we miss it so . . . the petition number is?

SAGER: Petition Number is 30478. It is, I believe, on the left column of that page. Page 425. The committee has voted nonconcurrency with the proposal that the Director of Communications be required to be a member of CCF&A but without vote.

BISHOP IVES: Well, I guess the chair is confused at this point. I know if . . . what was the petition number again?

SAGER: The Petition Number is 30478. Did I give you the wrong number?

BISHOP IVES: Yes. I think we are directed to the wrong place aren't we, or am I the only one that's in the wrong place?

SAGER: Calendar Item 306.

BISHOP IVES: 306, Gotcha.

SAGER: I gave you the right recommendation Bishop, it was nonconcurrency.

BISHOP IVES: Nonconcurrency on Calendar Item 306.

SAGER: The rationale of the committee was simply that it would impose an unnecessary burden, particularly upon smaller conferences when the Director of Communications may already be invited to Conference Council on Finance and Administration issues.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, are you ready to vote on 306? Voting nonconcurrency, you vote yes if you support the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency. No, if you do not. Please vote when the light appears. You supported the committee [*Yes, 836; No, 94*].

SAGER: Calendar Item 307, p. 1907, this is Petition 30646. The petition appears on p. 439 of the advance *DCA*, the committee has recommended nonconcurrency, believing that it was not necessary to add the proposed language.

BISHOP IVES: 307 is before you. Here again the recommendation is for nonconcurrency. If you would support nonconcurrency vote yes. If not vote no when the light appears. You supported nonconcurrency [*Yes, 850; No, 73*].

SAGER: Moving to Calendar Item 308, it also appears on p. 1907, the Petition is 30067 on p. 340 of the advance *DCA*. Petition 30067. The committee has voted nonconcurrency.

BISHOP IVES: The committee recommends nonconcurrency on 308. If you would support the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency vote yes when the light appears, if not, vote no. You have concurred [*Yes, 838; No, 69*].

SAGER: I would refer you to Calendar Item 310 at p. 1907, the *ADCA* page is 440, right column at the bottom of the page, Petition 31550. The committee has also voted nonconcurrency on that issue.

BISHOP IVES: The committee recommends nonconcurrency on item 310. If you would support nonconcurrency vote yes, if you would not, vote no when the light appears.

SAGER: Last item is calendar.

BISHOP IVES: Wait until this is finished.

SAGER: I'm sorry.

BISHOP IVES: You supported nonconcurrency [*Yes, 751; No, 167*].

SAGER: Calendar Item 14 appears at page 1835 of the *DCA*. That is a consent calendar page. It is been removed because of erroneously reported it as concurrency while it should have been reported as nonconcurrency. *Mea culpa*. And the committee then has voted nonconcurrency on this issue.

BISHOP IVES: You're on page 835. Item 14.

SAGER: I'm sorry, it is p. 432, petition page 432 of the *Advance DCA*, it is Petition 30202. The vote is for nonconcurrency.

BISHOP IVES: The motion to the committee is for nonconcurrency for the Calendar Item 14. Yes, question? Come to Mike 2.

Abortion and Funding Debated

STAN SAGER (New Mexico): My secretary tells me I just missed item 309. If I could go back . . .

JACK W. PLOWMAN (Western Pennsylvania): I urge that the Conference vote contrary to the recommendation. The reason I recommend it is this. Unfortunately today, the different general committees support, financially, abortion. As I understand the petition, it would be served to prevent the funding of either abortion or opposition to abortion, which as I understand it to be the position of the General Council today. And for that reason, I urge neutrality be our position. The General Council on Finance and Administration currently enforces a similar provision in respect to homosexuality. I see no reason why a distinction should be made and I urge that we vote nonconcurrent with the recommendation of the committee.

BISHOP IVES: The speech against the recommendation for nonconcurrency. Anybody else wishing to speak in favor or against? Yes, come to microphone two.

JOHN SETH (Western Pennsylvania): [There is nothing from him].

JUNE McCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, as I read paragraph 65J, The Church's Stand On Abortion, I believe that this petition would be out of order because the church has a stand that does not preclude abortion, as this petition would preclude our church officials speaking to that issue.

BISHOP IVES: Your suggesting that the whole petition is out of order? Well, shall

we take the time to look? I think the matter has been before the committee. The issue was not raised in the committee as to whether this was in order or not. I think, at this point, I'm going to have to rule it is in order for us to take action on it as it is. The motion is nonconcurrency, remember, with this. We have a speech in favor of concurrency. A vote to nonconcur would essentially accomplish what you said, June. If you're ready to vote on the committee's recommendation on number 14 that—yes, on the left back there—come to number seven.

PHILIP J. WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): As a member of the GCFA, I want to support the committee's action, which was unanimous on this, and to draw the Conference's attention to the sweeping character of the language contained in Petition 30202. It says "The GCFA shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, council, or task force shall directly or indirectly support, subsidize, belong to, be affiliated with, or in any way endorse or participate," etc., etc. To impose upon the GCFA the responsibility to police what could become witchhunts in the character of the whole church seems to me entirely inappropriate and I urge the conference to support the action of the committee on that matter.

BISHOP IVES: Okay, we've had a speech in favor of the position of the committee. We've had a speech against the position of the committee. You've already spoken to this. Is there anybody else who wants to speak? Yes?

DAVE MENDYK (Nebraska):

BISHOP IVES: You're on the floor, you're a delegate.

MENDYK: Thank you. God bless the UMC. (laughter) I do want to say that our church is not neutral. We are not neutral on this issue. Let us reconsecrate ourselves to be the voice of that unborn child. We can support that unborn child through our prayers and our monies. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: I interpret that as a speech against the committee recommendation.

TSHIBANG KASAP (North-West Katanga, Congo): May I speak in French

BISHOP IVES: Excuse me. Interpreters. Wait for the interpretation. Wait until they give it to you.

KASAP: Okay.

BISHOP IVES: Interpretation please.

KASAP: (Speaking in French as interpreted). I think that in terms of ethics the

church has to take a position that is clear and neat. I don't see any difference between somebody who is a doctor and anybody who is making abortion. The abortion is murder. The church has to say "no" to abortion in all its forms. We African delegates are kind of scandalized on what we heard about abortion. What we hear in this conference is disturbing a little bit our faith as Africans. What we hear and know is that the church has been [unintelligible] in Africa with education, with the help of American church, and what we hear is not representing exactly what we believe to get from America. I thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. I want also to make clear in any interpretation or comments that I make that if the delegate does not understand my language that that will be interpreted as well. I've had three speeches against the recommendation of the committee. I've heard two speeches in favor of the committee's recommendation. I'll recognize somebody who is speaking in favor of the committee's recommendation. I'll recognize the hand way to the back, the yellow way in the back, I saw you first.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): It seems to me that the committee is correct because if we adopt the language that is at page 432, then no one can even speak in opposition to the performance of abortions under any circumstances. Our stance is quite clear on that in the United Methodist Church. We do not approve abortions under any circumstances, so to turn down the committee's recommendation is to silence us on our own previously taken position.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. We are under the mandate to vote. We've had three speeches for and three against. Our rules indicate that when that's happened, then we are ready to vote. Does the chair of the committee have anything in addition to say?

SAGER: Briefly Bishop, the committee has felt that there were at least two reasons for nonconcurrency.

One is the unreasonable burden which it was perceived that this would place upon GCFA to put it in the position of monitoring meetings, actions throughout and the expense to the church would be substantial. Number two, this would seem to be addressing the very sensitive abortion issue, not directly in the committees where these matters are considered, but indirectly through the finance end and we did not feel that was appropriate.

BISHOP IVES: Item number 14 on page 1835 is before you. Committee recommends nonconcurrency with item 14. If you would support the committee's recommendation,

vote yes; if you would not, vote no. Please vote when the light appears.

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: You have supported the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency, [Yes, 811; No, 126]. You had one more item?

STAN SAGER (New Mexico): I have one more that is Calendar Item 309, p. 1907 of the DCA. It refers to ADCA, p. 440, Petition 30119. The committee has voted nonconcurrency. This is the same general area of two earlier petitions of which you have sustained votes of nonconcurrency on similar or related issues.

BISHOP IVES: 309 on p. 1907 is before you, recommendation is nonconcurrency. If you would support the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrency, vote yes; if not, vote no when the light appears. You supported the committee's recommendation, [Yes, 783; No, 131]. We are within a few seconds of an order of the day, which is before us. We're going to have to suspend work on calendar items at this time and, and move along. Are those who are, are those who are prepared to bring before us the General Council on Ministries Report No. 3 prepared to go? Bishop Hearn.

BISHOP J. WOODROW HEARN: In 1996, with great excitement, the General Conference adopted two special initiatives. The first one of those was entitled, "Shared Mission Focus on Young People," and the second one was entitled, "Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-first Century." We, of course, all recognize the significance of these two special initiatives—the one on young people and the one on the Afro-American church ministry.

These initiatives—these two initiatives were assigned to have a relationship by the General Conference to the General Council on Ministries, and so we are pleased today to bring you a report of what has been done during this quadrennium. We, first, will hear from the report on the Shared Mission Focus on Young People; and, secondly, we'll hear the report on Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-first Century. I'll ask those who are presenting these materials to introduce themselves to the conference at the time they come to make these presentations. The first one, a report on the Shared Missions Focus on Young People, to be followed by the report of Strengthening the Black Church in the Twenty-first Century.

Shared Mission Focus on Young People

AUDREY FULGRAM: Our '96 General Conference created the Shared Mission Focus on Young People. It called for the

church to reorder its priorities and focus on the joys and pains of young people around the globe. It called for us to bring persons between the ages of 12 – 30 into the life and ministry of the church. Since 1996, the initiative has worked diligently to this end under the umbrella of the General Council on Ministries. We wish to express to them our deep gratitude.

From financing received through the Focus 2000 Fund, we supported the implementation of innovative pilot programs and young people's ministries globally. We collaborated with our United Methodist seminaries on strengthening the relevancy of theological education in the areas of youth and young adult ministries. Not the least of our work was the gathering together of the general program agency staffs related to young people's ministries. Dynamic issues forums were held on the issues of violence, substance abuse, the Asian economic crisis, and the relevancy of the church. We realize that it will take all of us. Our dream has been that together we can move mountains. Now I would invite you to focus on the dreams of our young people.

(Video Presentation)
(Applause)

JEFF QUICK (West ern New York): The Book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, verse 1 tells us that like that great cloud of witnesses we, too, should lay aside every hindrance and the sin that clings so closely to us and run with perseverance the race that is set before us. I believe that it's time to run that race, and never give up.

I dream of a church where ministries with youth and young adults, center around mentoring relationships for people like the Reverend Roger Bill who is one of my mentors, lovingly work side by side with us in the mission field. Roger nurtured a sense of self-worth in us. He offered us opportunities of leadership. He offered us the tools for ministry that we needed. More importantly than anything else, Roger helped us to grow into a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I believe that it's time to run the race and never give up.

And I dream of a church where those who feel called to ministry with young people would find cutting-edge methods of leadership and solid, scriptural, and spiritual developments. Let's offer theological education appropriate to their specific calling. We must continue to strengthen our theological education where ministries to youth and young adults are concerned. The time is long since gone when our church could afford to look at youth ministry and

young adult ministry as a stepping stone to real ministry.

(Applause)

I believe that it is time to run the race, and never give up!

I dream of a church, a church where general agency staff would gather together and design a comprehensive plan for ministry. Let's [Unintelligible] for our church a sense of cooperation that changes lives. Let's renew a fire for Christ in our young people. John Wesley said, "Catch on fire with enthusiasm, and folks will come from miles away just to watch you burn."

(Laughter-Applause)

I dream of a church where youth and young adults are on fire with enthusiasm for God. And better yet, while we're dreaming and while we're imagining, I dream of a church where the folks in the pews and the folks in the pulpits are screaming to them, "Burn baby, burn!" It's time for us to run the race and never give up. It's time for us to get so excited about youth and young adult ministries that we start drawing a crowd and that that crowd would be coming from miles away just to watch that burning—that desire for Christ.

I dream of a denomination where local churches and annual conferences endeavor to provide creative and innovative ministries with young people. Let's lead the way in researching methods of reaching, teaching, mentoring, and sending a new generation of Christians. We must reach, teach, mentor, and send these young people—the ones inside our church and the ones on the outside, as well. I believe that it's time to run the race and never give up.

And I dream of a church where we quit waiting for them to come to us.

(Applause)

Let's go to them. Who said that the race had to be run around a track? Who said that we had to wait for the spectators to come and sit in our bleachers? Let's quit running in circles. Let's start running right through the middle of town. Let's go to the young people and find out first hand their joys and their pains. Let's find out first hand how we might embark on ministry with them.

Scripture tells us, "Church, go into the world," not world, come to the church. I believe that it's time to run the race and, with perseverance, that we should never, never give up.

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause)

BISHOP MARSHALL L. MEADORS JR: We've been moving mountains by bringing together the initiatives of the church. The Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty, Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-first Century, the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, the Native American Comprehensive Plan—all of these and the other initiatives have established creative partnerships with the boards and the agencies of the church.

The forum for this that's made it possible has been the Shared Mission Focus on Young People. Together we struggled with what it means to be a global church. Together we sought to put aside issues of turf and rather to seek to build community. All of this is to create the church in which there are more opportunities for young people to be participants in the full life of the church.

We've seen dreams come true. We've seen systemic change. We've adopted new ways of being in ministry. Life is different. We're looking at our lives in ministry through a wider lens, and the forum has been the Shared Mission Focus on Young People.

JULIUS NELSON (Liberia): War is not good. Whether you are in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Russia, France, China, the Philippines, or the United States of America, war is not good.

Promoting reconciliation among youth is a pilot project in the Liberia that is alive today because of Shared Mission Focus on Young People and other partners. The prayer project provides young people from the church and the community the opportunity to reflect on their root causes and effects of the civil war in Liberia. From the learning and the sharing, Liberian young people are looking for ways to restore peace. They are moving their communities from a culture of violence to a culture of peace and reconciliation. They are deciding to accept each other in the various communities and are trying to forgive their brothers and sisters for what happened during the civil war. Thank God. Thank God for the decision to start this initiative for young people in our church. Together we move mountains.

(Applause)

EDWIN ZEIDERS (Central Pennsylvania): All young people have a basic need and right to know that they are loved in finitely by God and that God seeks for them a life of joy, hope, and meaning.

On October 8-10, 1999, a consultation was held involving representatives of the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States and representatives of the Shared Mission Focus regarding the role our seminaries might play in equipping our own seminarians to be more effective in preparing for ministry with youth and with young people. The consultation resulted in the presentation of 19 specific statements and six additional questions challenging both the seminaries and the church to ask even more and deeper questions with regard to ministry for and with youth and young people.

The Association of United Methodist Theological Schools will continue to reflect on our work and our commitment to equip both clergy and laity for effective youth and young adult ministries. Additionally, we would encourage deeper and more penetrating dialogue designed to challenge the whole church to work more creatively—to close the gap between the church and the youth and young adult cultures emerging in our global community.

LANEC. WINN (Louisiana): I dream of a church where young people are not sitting on the back pew every Sunday in worship but, where they are leading the service side by side with other clergy and laity. I dream of a church that is not afraid to ask, that is not satisfied with the *status quo*, that does not want to see a wider gap between the “us” and “them”. While we as youth and young adults can learn and gain from those older than us, we, too, have much to teach and share with you. Today I commission all of you to continue to listen to the voice of young people in our church. My generation is still being influenced by the world. So why not make an impact on us as the church. Remember when you’re designing your church of your dream to include the young people of today. United Methodists are amazing Christians and by working together all of our dreams will come true.

(Applause)

JEFF QUICK: A vision has been set forth by the Shared Mission Focus On Young People for the church. It is a vision that has young people living out their faith in the present, and leading the way into the future. It is a vision where unchurched young people are offered the unconditional love of God through ways that are affirming and accepting. It is a vision that claims young people, no matter who they are, as assets rather than liabilities. The United Methodist Church simply can not live or thrive without us. As chair of the Shared Mission Focus On Young People, I would like to thank the General Conference on behalf of young

people across our globe for this initiative. While we’re excited about the work that we have already accomplished, we know that there is still much to do. And we look forward to our continued work with you as, together, we move mountains.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. (Applause) Our agenda calls for us to move to the second item that you had from . . . My question is, you know, we’re running very close on time. We’re at the—we have set aside about 30 minutes to do this and we only have about 10 of those minutes left and I don’t think that’s going to be sufficient for you to do what you want to do, is it?

WALTER KIMBROUGH (North Georgia): No sir.

BISHOP IVES: What is the will of the house? I don’t want to interrupt this in the middle, if they begin . . . how much time are you looking for?

KIMBROUGH: 25 minutes.

BISHOP IVES: In order to complete this report, we would have to extend the time which means we’re not going to leave here until after 12:30, probably. I hear the motion to extend the time to allow the completion of this report. Second it, if you would approve, indicate when the light appears. You have approved the extension of time by 543 to 336. Go ahead.

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century

KIMBROUGH: Thank you, Bishop Ives and members of the general conference, delegates-year 2000. As a member of the coordinating committee to strengthen the black church of the 21st century, we are pleased to have a significant leadership from every sector of the church. The committee is ably chaired by Bishop Jonathan Keaton. Dr. Carolyn Johnson served as our vice-chair. The late Rev. Valerie Irvin, who made her transition suddenly from life mortal to life immortal two weeks ago today, Andres Salters who is our coordinator for strengthening the black church with the 21st century, a total coordinating committee composed of 19 persons representing each of the five jurisdictions.

We started at this process 8 years ago at the General Conference in 1992. Legislation was presented to us calling for an initiative in the life of our great church to strengthen the black church as we were preparing to move into the 21st century. It was a layperson, Lillian Lane, in Chicago, Illinois on the Chicago Southern district many, many years ago, who said to me, “Walter, those of us who came from the Lexington Conference had what the former Rock

River Conference needed and they wanted it. But we failed to give it to them.” And I said to Lillian, “What was it that we had that the larger church needed?” And she said, “We had a Spirit to bring to them. And instead of bringing to them what they needed, we started acting like them.”

Well, we have shifted from that position. We recognize that a blessing for The United Methodist Church is what happens within, contextually, the life and experience of our Black congregations. We believe great deliverance will come from this arena. And so, four years ago, in 1996, the General Conference overwhelmingly approved of this initiative that got us started. And because of the decision made four years ago, we’re moving, I’m convinced, in the right direction, to help in reshaping this great denomination of ours, so that we would move from being a declining denomination to one that is growing and vibrant. My friend and colleague, Dr. Carolyn Johnson will come now and give more information.

CAROLYN JOHNSON (North Indiana): Thank you, Dr. Kimbrough. And delegates, I know you are hungry. But there is nothing quite as satisfying as hearing stories of people who have been claimed by Christ and whose lives have been changed by Christ. And that reality is in deed what we think is the success story of strengthening the black church for the 21st century. As you have probably read in your document, the initiative set up 25 congregational resource centers that were chosen because they were vital congregations. And that vitality was not necessarily defined by size but by having sound lay and clergy leadership that worked in partnership with each other; that offered the ability and the time and the capacity for faith formation, bible study, and prayer; that was strategically placed within the community to respond to the needs of the community; and who had a sense of cultural memory that it brought to the theological and the biblical understanding and the expressiveness of United Methodism within that area, within that community.

And it also had a chance to not just identify those congregational resource centers, but to have a mechanism for those congregations who would be called partner churches to work with congregational resource centers. And what was in deed special about this initiative is that it demonstrated that there was a real yearning among congregations to want to increase the depth and the breadth of the ability to make disciples for Jesus Christ. And in that to participate in self-study, to work with the congregational resource center, to come home and do follow-up, and to in deed then

try to live out the kinds of—live out the life of the very work that they had been dealing with. Now as I said to you earlier, there are many, many, many stories, but we're going to share one. And that you will see as the video begins.

(Video)
(Applause)

CAROLYN JOHNSON: As my Uncle Alec would say, "That's not some thing we read about, that's some thing we live." Let, let me say to you that, as you have read in your materials, we are proposing that the initiative be continued for several reasons. One, last quadrennium, as we said, that we would work with 400-600 partner congregations—partner teams—out of a designated number of churches. We have just about met that goal, but what we didn't count on was the number of congregations that are indeed yearning to participate in this kind of initiative.

Also we're finding that, as you well know in our denomination, that we find many congregations of African-American United Methodist that find themselves culturally isolated where they are, so that they may indeed be the only African-American congregation. And many of the kind of linkages and network that they need to have—that would be very helpful—are not available to them in their own location. And as you know, SBBC crosses all our, our jurisdictional lines.

An other one is that we find that the demographics of the populations, particularly of the unchurched, are taking on some unique characteristics in this time period. Not only are we talking about unchurched, which may be very different than you understood it twenty years ago—a people who were not in church, but who had some church experience. We're talking now about people who

are unchurched with no church experience at all.

As well as the fact that what I think is the joy of this program is that while it may be designed to fit specific congregations, a particular cultural pattern—the learnings and the models that are developed—are not culturally restrictive. It is indeed the best example of the connectional principle, not in terms of administrative links of some kind of hierarchy, but of the things that we clearly understand to be connectional. Shared vision, resource mobilization, linkage, and networking.

At some point during this Annual Con—during this General Conference, I hope Reverend Cynthia will teach you, if you don't know how, to sing a song called, "I Woke Up This Morning With My Mind Staid on Jesus." And if you know that song, perhaps that encapsulates everything to say about this initiative. That what it tends to do is to make sure that people indeed do wake up each morning with their mind staid on Jesus. And when your mind is staid on Jesus, it's very clear what you must do. Reverend Kimbrough.

ALBERT KIMBROUGH: Several members of the leadership team are coming now to stand with me, and Bishop Peter Weaver will share a word with us to day. Let me see if I can't summarize what's taking place.

The primary objective of Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-first Century seeks to take those congregations that are in fact vital, in the words of Bishop Roy Nickels, and transform them into congregational resource centers. What we mean by that is that those Black United Methodists congregations in America, who are doing a significant job in ministry, possess a moral obligation to share with others who are not experiencing vitality in their places, who are not experiencing excitement, who are

not encountering significant growth. We used to say it another way: "The strong must bear the infirmity of the weak."

And so twenty-five vital United Methodist congregations that are Black in America have been selected to become the teachers of others of our congregations across the vastness of this nation. We have not arrived at where we want to be. But we are one quadrennium on our way. And we need the continued support of General Conference 2000 to say, "Yes, you're moving in the right direction." To say, "Yes, we care." To say, "Yes, we support" and to support this initiative to the fullest extent."

And I encourage you to keep in mind that every congregational resource center adds additional dollars to bring about this particular ministry. Every partner congregation shares their resources as well as the general church. And I want you to further keep in mind that each of our congregations share with every other congregation in paying conference apportionments. We need you to help Black United Methodists congregations be a blessing to the total denomination. I am convinced that our time under God is now.

BISHOP PETER D. WEAVER: Let me say just one word—this is not just strengthening the Black church for the twenty-first century, this is a gift to the whole church. This is strengthening The United Methodist Church for the twenty-first century. This is strengthening communities for the twenty-first century.

(Applause)

And you saw the faces across the street. Most importantly, this is allowing the love of Jesus to flow so that lives are strengthened and transformed as sisters and brothers across this world move into the twentieth century—*twenty-first* century, together. Thanks be to God.

(Continued next issue)

WALTER L. KIMBROUGH (North Georgia): Bishop Ives, thank you for this time. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for caring enough to give us additional time. It is my understanding that we are already operating under a motion to suspend the rules by GCOM for the purpose of passing out material. That is my understanding, Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: I think we passed that earlier in the—in the session, yes.

KIMBROUGH: Yes. Thank you.

KIMBROUGH: Thank you for your report. We appreciate the spirit in which it is brought.

(Applause)

BISHOP IVES: Let me tell you where we are. We're six minutes away from our regular adjournment time. We have some announcements, a report from the presiding officers, and a closing prayer. The only question is, to the house, is, do you want to hear the result of a ballot before you go to dinner and take another ballot? If—if somebody wants to extend the time to do that, that's okay. If not, we'll proceed with those three items that I suggested. Hearing none, you'll deal your ballot when you come back together, next time. Carolyn, do you have announcements? I want Paul Extrum-Fernandez to come and give announcements in relationship to presiding officers, after which I'm going to ask Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen to dismiss us. Carolyn, announcements?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: There are several, which refer to legislative committees, as well as administrative committees. Let me share them with you.

The Committee on Reference will meet tomorrow morning, Tuesday, at 7:15 a.m., in Room 224. Please be present if you are a member of that committee.

The Committee on Conferences will begin today at 2:00 p.m. This pertains to Church and Society Legislative Committee. All subcommittee chairpersons, please meet at 2:00 p.m. in the legislative meeting room, B212.

*Carolyn Marshall
Reminds of Announcement Rules*

Would refer you to the rules of the General Conference and also to that which is on page 1944. Numerous announcements keep coming to the platform, and there is the rule that announcements should be in the—in by 3:00 p.m. in the DCA of office in order that they could be published and that we will not, hopefully, have to make these announcements from the stage. I'm making two today; however, after this, please adhere to the rules, as they will not be made for the rest of the week.

Having said that, here are the two: All racial ethnic delegates will meet on Tuesday at lunch time, Exhibit Hall B, Room 313, with the Interethnic Coordinating Committee present. And then one which is the same as what is listed in this announcement on page 1924 [sic, 1944], right-hand column, the next-to-the-last one, that all clergywomen delegates and women bishops are asked to meet Liz Lopez immediately following the morning session for a group photo in Exhibit Hall A.

A reminder to all of us that as far as delegates are concerned at the tables, it is important that liquids not be on the tables, as when they are spilled, they do interfere with the voting equipment. And a reminder that the noon time concerts will be in effect all of this week. The choirs share with us very well in the beginning of our morning, for a while, and then also for our morning worship, but remain for a concert at noon. We'll begin at 12:15 downstairs near the lunch area, and if you have any opportunity at all, please avail yourselves of the opportunity to continue in worship and a time of multicultural experience with them.

Bishop, that completes the announcements.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Carolyn. I want to express appreciation to all of you. You've worked hard this morning. You've done good work. We've been going to move the train, which will go with increasing speed, as you will understand, but we must continue as we move to know that we have been called to be God's holy people in this place, and that we are indeed on a journey of Christlike holiness in all that we do in this

place, and thank you for being on that journey and sharing that journey with me. Call on Paul Extrum-Fernandez to bring a report for presiding officers.

*Bishop Paup Picked
to Preside Monday Night*

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop Ives. This evening, presiding will be Bishop Edward Paup from the Portland Area, and concluding this evening's session we will give an update on tomorrow's presiding officers. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Paul. I want to call on Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen, who is the bishop of our sister church in Argentina, to dismiss us this morning. Bishop Etchegoyen.

BISHOP ALDO ETCHEGOYEN: Let us pray. O God, thank you for Jesus Christ and for our calling to be part of peace mission around the world. *O Dios, gracias por Jesu Cristo y por su llamado a ser parte de su misión en todo el mundo.* O God, thank you for the gospel and for the truth, justice, and peace of your kingdom. *O Dios, gracias por el evangelio, por la verdad, la justicia, y la paz de tu reino.* Give us love, faith, and hope to proclaim your message and to serve our neighborhood. *O Dios, danos fe, amor, y esperanza para proclamar tu mensaje y para servir a nuestro prójimo.* Give us your Holy Spirit to fulfill your good will to transform this unjust economic system, in order to put bread and love among all people. *O Dios, danos tu Espíritu Santo para cumplir tu voluntad a fin de transformar este justo sistema económico a fin de poner pan y amor en los pobres.* Give us your power to work with hope in favor of the human rights for all human beings. *O Dios, danos tu poder para trabajar con esperanza en favor de los derechos humanos para todos hermanos.* Now, go forth in peace. The grace of Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. *Ahora vayan en paz. La gracia de Jesucristo el Señor, el amor de Dios y la comunión del Espíritu Santo sea con todos ustedes.* Amen.

BISHOP IVES: Amen.

(Adjournment)